2. Giving EOUs producing cotton yarn, flexibility to export such yarn without any count restriction;

3. Mooting a proposal to launch a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for Textile & Jute Industries to provide interest incentive to textile and jute units;

4. Mooting a proposal to launch a Cotton Technology Mission with a view to increasing productivity, improving research, marketing and post harvest activities;

5. Setting up of a task force for facilitating induction of Information Technology in the textile sector, etc.

(c) and (d) It is not obligatory for the Central Government to provide financial assisance to State Government. However, Government has established a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 to tackle problems of sicklness.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Indusry, Department of Industrial Development has received to proposals from the Government of Gujarat as follows:

(i) Proposal of Gujarat State Textile Corporation Ltd. (GSTC) for assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF).

(ii) Proposal of Government of Gujarat seeking NRF assistance for closed Textile Mills.

Assistance from NRF is presently available only for VRS in Central Public Sector Undertakings and for counselling, retraining of rationalised workers.

12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER ANSWER TO QUESTION

Correcting the reply given in Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1998 to Unstarred Question 209 regarding rate of inflation

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st December, 1998 to the Unstarred Question 209 regarding rate of inflation. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-2147/98]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Airline Allied Services Ltd. new Delhi and related papers.

II. Notification of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Reprot on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1914/98]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation Notification G.S.R. 182, dated the 31st August, 1998, publishing the Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 1998, regarding collection of Foreign Travel Tax, under sub-section (3) of section 14-A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, together